Abolition of posts in Central Government offices

213. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Expenditure Reforms Commission had identified 42,000 posts for abolition in the offices of Central Government while Government have identified only 23,900 posts and if so, the reasons for different figures in both the cases; and

(b) how many posts have since been abolished and by when the entire identified posts would be abolished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) ERC had identified around 42,000 posts for abolition in different Ministries/Departments. The recommendations in this regard were forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments for implementation. On further scrutiny the concerned Ministries/Departments identified around 23,900 posts for abolition.

(b) Around 13,900 posts have been abolished so far. Efforts are being made to abolish the remaining posts.

Transfer of bilateral assistance

214. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stop taking bilateral aid and pre-pay part of its bilateral debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far it would reduce the interest burden; and

(d) whether Government also propose to transfer this bilateral assistance to other developing countries which need greater official development assistance aid and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to discontinue receiving aid from all countries except Japan, UK, Germany, USA, European Commission and the Russian Federation. India would also prepay the outstanding bilateral debt to countries other than Japan, Germany, USA and France.

(c) It would result in savings in interest payments of about Rs. 116 crores during 2003-04.

(d) This will be decided by the countries from whom India has decided not to receive bilateral assistance.

Pending cases of US-64 certificates

215. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made full and final payment of cash values or issues 6.75% Government bonds in lieu of all the US-64 certificates;

(b) if so, when the last payment was made;

(c) whether any claim is still pending with the UTI; and

(d) if so, by when the same is likely to be disposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) According to the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI), it has issued cheques or 6.75% bonds guaranteed by the Government of India to all the investors in Unit Scheme-64 except in regard to cases under objection.

(b) The last batch of redemption cheques was issued in the second week of June, 2003.

(c) Except for the cases under objection, no claim is pending with SUUTI.

(d) The pending cases can be disposed as and when the objections are cleared by the investors.

Structural Adjustment Loan to States

216. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa, among others, has been sanctioned World Bank Structural Adjustment Loan from the Central Government; if so, the details of the loan so sanctioned;

(b) the details of other States which have been given this loan; and